



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris, 2nd District

For Immediate Release October 26, 2011
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

COMMITTEE ENDORSES FREE BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR VOTER I.D.

Milwaukee, WI – The County Board’s Finance and Audit Committee voted 5-1 today to approve free birth certificates for individuals who qualify for a free voter ID.

The Budget Amendment was authored by Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris and co-sponsored by Supervisors Johnny L. Thomas, Eyon Biddle, Sr., Marina Dimitrijevic, and Willie Johnson, Jr. If approved in the adopted budget, beginning on January 1, 2012, 5,000 free birth certificates will be available at the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds Office for individuals who have never received a state ID.

“This is a major breakthrough for Milwaukee County. It is appalling that, due to the new Voter ID law, 78% of African American men age 18-24, 66% of African American women age 18-24, 46% of Hispanic men, and 59% of Hispanic women are at risk of being disenfranchised,” Supervisor Harris said. “We are doing what we can to help individuals get the documents they need to vote. It’s important for everyone, including those who don’t drive, to participate in the election process.”

###